

# DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES



## *CHAFEE IL NEWS BULLETIN*

Moving Indiana Foster Youth Toward Permanency

November-December 2006

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<http://www.in.gov/dcs/policies/cwmanual.html>

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<https://www.statevoucher.org/>

### **Youth Advisory Board in Action**

The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) had their first meeting with 9 members in attendance on October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Government Center. Training was provided by Clay Finck from the National Resource Center at the University of Oklahoma and Matt Hudson, a former foster youth from Kansas who serves on the Kansas Youth Advisory Board. The youth were enthusiastic about the training and enjoyed the interaction between each other and the trainers. Those in attendance voiced their appreciation at the opportunity to participate and were impressed with the training they received that day. The youth worked on their mission statement and voiced their excitement about being in a position to have their voice heard.

The second meeting was held on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Four of the youth participated on a panel "Teens Speak Out" at the Indiana Foster Care and Adoption Association State Conference before 50 foster parents and social workers. Other YAB members attending responded when questions were asked that required their expertise. Each of the panelists told their story prior to receiving questions. The youth were very poised and articulate in their presentations and their responses to questions posed by the audience. The youth shared candid responses to the questions asked of them and their information was well received by those in attendance.

**We are still in need of board members in Region 1, 14, 16, and 17.** Any interested youth who can arrange transportation to meetings is welcome to submit an application. Mileage is provided to the person transporting the youth as well as a hotel stay for the transporter and youth on the night before the meetings since each of these regions are more than 50 miles from Indianapolis.

Please assist any youth interested in becoming a member of the Youth Advisory Board by contacting Mary Lou Easter at [mary.easter@dcs.in.gov](mailto:mary.easter@dcs.in.gov).

### **ACLSA End User Training Held**

Five Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA) End User Trainings were held in October by the National Resource Center from the University of Oklahoma for Chafee contracted providers and congregate care workers. Seventy five people were trained

### **Foster Club Website**

<http://www.fosterclub.com/index.cfm>

### **CONTACT US:**

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representing 53 agencies. Those who were trained planned to take the training back to their agencies to share with other staff since use of the ACLSA is required for all youth in care age 16 and older.

Hearing from those in attendance that the completed assessment tool is filed and forgotten was a common occurrence. Most in attendance admitted that they did not connect the results of the tool to the learning plan. The training helped everyone to understand that having the conversation with the youth regarding the results of the assessment proved to be very helpful in developing the learning plan. Without input from the youth, the plan is extremely difficult to develop.

It is important that family case managers pay close attention to the assessment to ensure that youth are receiving services that will prepare them for living independent of the system at age 18 or older. The youth's learning plan is to be developed with the youth selecting training tools from those available through the Casey website as well as others that are available. There are free materials for each domain covered by the ACLSA.

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## **2007 IL Computer Camps Coming in March and April**

The application for the 2007 Computer Camps will be available in the January IL News Bulletin. It is time for all youth interested in applying to start working on their essays. The two essays count toward 50% of the total score when choosing winning applications.

The essays include: 1) Describe your interest in participating in the computer camp (100 words) and 2) Describe how a computer would be helpful to you in your future plans and provide an example of specific use (125 words). Another area that counts toward 40% of the score includes volunteer work or paid employment as well as attendance at school.

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## **Volunteer opportunities-Resume Builder**

With the Christmas season approaching, there are numerous opportunities for youth to volunteer at food banks, community holiday dinners, nursing homes, etc. Youth who participate in volunteer programs become more connected to their communities, develop relationships with adults in the program, and they learn to give back to their own community. Volunteering also helps them build their resume when seeking employment. Volunteering indicates self motivation which is a commendable attribute to potential employers as well as other opportunities that youth may be interested in such computer camp and scholarships.

When seeking out volunteer opportunities, it is important for the youth to think about what they enjoy spending time doing. For animal lovers, an animal shelter might be a good match. Youth who enjoy using their hands might check into Habitat for Humanity or theater programs doing set construction as an option. This also helps youth determine if they would enjoy this area of work as an occupation. When looking for volunteer programs, it is important to look for a program that includes the following:

1. an application process
2. orientation regarding the position
3. position description
4. recognition of some type (certificate)
5. sign in and sign out sheets
6. scheduled days and times

The internet is an excellent tool to use when searching out volunteer opportunities. Most United Way agencies provide many opportunities and have websites where contact information can be located. Other communities provide these services through the library. Entering into *GOOGLE* "county name Indiana youth volunteer opportunities" should generate websites that will provide needed information.

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## Automotive Program of Interest for Youth

[https://www.ayes.org/about/general\\_information](https://www.ayes.org/about/general_information)

Check out this website

**Automotive Youth Educational Systems (AYES)** is a partnership among participating automotive manufacturers, participating dealers, and selected high schools/tech prep schools. It's designed to encourage young people to consider satisfying careers in retail automotive service, and prepare them for entry-level career positions or advanced studies in automotive technology.

Through its dealership and school partners, AYES strives to enhance the public image of dealerships and dealership careers, build local partnerships between dealerships and high quality schools, and foster positive working environments in dealerships. Dealerships today are in competition for qualified employees, not only among themselves, but also among restaurants, mass marketers, other retail outlets and other professions. Dealerships need to reach out to young people and their parents to explain the challenge and rewards of pursuing a retail automotive career. AYES is helping in this effort by providing "how to" ideas and support materials on conducting dealership tours for educators and youngsters, offering "job shadowing" opportunities, and taking part in "career days" and "career fairs" at local schools.

AYES is designed with continuing professional development in mind. Many participating dealerships anticipate sponsoring their students in manufacturer-supported college-level programs, such as the Daimler-Chrysler CAP, GM ASEP, Honda PACT, Toyota T-TEN, or certificate programs offered by Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz, BMW and Audi. Through their AYES experiences, most students come to realize the importance of continuing their professional development, either through a college degree program or through manufacturer-provided training.

### Get Involved: Students

**Question:** How can I prepare for a well-paying job that is in demand during high school?

**Answer:** If you have a passion for cars, Automotive Youth Educational Systems (AYES) is your answer. If you're interested in high-tech, fast-paced and lucrative work in automotive service technology, AYES can not only provide you with a solid education while you are in high school, but offer you the value of a paid internship under a senior technician at a local dealership that will get you on your way to a career with a great future and job security. You will have the benefit of not only learning what you need to know, but you will also be able to experience the career while you are still in high school, with a paid mentored internship, to ensure that this is the career for you

Today, technicians typically earn between \$30,000 and \$60,000 annually in metro areas and work with the latest computer systems and diagnostic equipment. This career offers you the challenges of tomorrow's technology, and the opportunity to continue your development in a great career with solid pay, great benefits, and opportunities to pursue a college degree while you work.

AYES is a nationally-recognized business and education partnership of 14 manufacturers and the National Automobile Dealers Association, and affiliated new car dealers that combines an educational curriculum with job shadowing, mentoring, employability skills, and hands-on training to prepare you for entry-level positions in the service career in new car dealerships and for post-secondary opportunities in college or certificate-based schools.

AYES offers you the opportunity to turn your passion into a career. Get involved and get AYES. Call 888-339-AYES (2937) or send an email to [info@ayes.org](mailto:info@ayes.org). **Below is a list of programs in Indiana.**

**Anthnis Career Center**

1200 South Barr St. Fort Wayne IN 46802 Phone: 2604671010 Primary Contact Lawrence Ewing Phone: (260) 467-1039	National Manager Jack Herr Phone: (713) 962-6620
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**Central Nine Career Center**

1999 U.S. 31 South Greenwood IN 46143 Phone: 3178884401 Primary Contact Vernon Huddleson Phone: (317) 888-4401 x251	National Manager Jack Herr Phone: (713) 962-6620
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**Elkhart Area Career Center**

2424 California Road Elkhart IN 46514 Phone: 5742625557 Primary Contact Karen Nicholson Phone: (574)262-5802	National Manager Jack Herr Phone: (713) 962-6620
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**Hammond Career Center**

5727 Sohl Avenue Hammond IN 46320 Phone: 2199332430 AYES Coordinator Christopher Golden Phone: (219) 933-2428	State Manager Jim Butcher Phone: (630)424-6020 National Manager Roger Tadajewski Phone: (405)717-4186
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**Kokomo Area Career Center**

2415 S. Berkley Road Kokomo IN 46902 Phone: 7654558021 Primary Contact David Lingle Phone: (765)455-8021x418x418	National Manager Jack Herr Phone: (713) 962-6620
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**McKenzie Career Center**

7250 E. 75th Street Indianapolis IN 46256 Phone: 3175766420 Primary Contact Don Sheets Phone: (317)964-8035	National Manager Jack Herr Phone: (713) 962-6620
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